The DX Bulletin

• *America's Oldest Weekly Amateur Radio Publication* •

ISSUE 315 DECEMBER 20, 1985

PROPAGATION: Dec 13, High Normal; Dec 14-16, Low Normal; Dec 17-23, High Normal; Dec 24, High/Low Normal; Dec 25, High Normal; Dec 26, 27, Disturbed; Dec 28, 29, Low Normal; Dec 30, 31, High Normal. TNX N4XX.

Flux (80)	Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Flux (83)	Flux (84)	Date	Flux ----1985----	A	K
176	270	217	95	76	12/6	73	n/a	2
182	288	252	101	75	12/7	74	6	n/a
175	297	241	102	75	12/8	75	5	2
191	305	243	101	76	12/9	78	5	2
186	287	279	112	77	12/10	78	15	1
215	278	272	111	78	12/11	79	10	2
239	260	256	106	81	12/12	80	5	3

W1AW'S PROPAGATION FORECASTS are often interesting, although many people do not copy them (the CW is very slow, as are the voice transmissions). They are written by retired headquarters staffer W1HDQ, and the transmission schedule appears each month in QST.

The Dec. 9 transmission noted that between Nov 27 and Dec 8, "the solar flux curve followed that for the same days of the pervious solar rotation almost exactly. It held at 70 or 71 until Dec 4, then rose gradually to 75 by the 8th. If this tracking continues as expected, the flux will peak about Dec 13, then slide back to near quiet sun levels by the 24th."

Turns out that's exactly what happened and, as a result, the ARRL 10-Meter contest featured only N/S propagation, and weak at that. W1HDQ noted that the American sunspot numbers for Nov 21 through 27 were between 0 and 11, with a mean of 2.7, and that there were no sunspots visible Nov 28 to Dec 4.

NOTES

• "VU2GI" on 160 Nov 20 was a phoney, although VU2GI is now reported to be on Top Band. VU2GDG is said to have a 160 Meter antenna in place and is active but has not yet worked North or South America.

• V2A by the Southwest Ohio DXA in the CQ CW contest reportedly made 6500 contest contacts in the multi-single class, possibly a world-high score. We are trying to find out how well the OH8OS single band 20 Meter effort did.

• DX News Sheet reports that FR7AI expects to be active from Tromelin the entire month of February, 1986.

• The Colvins are now on from Lesotho as 7P8KG, and the next stop will be Malawi, 7Q7, around Jan 1.

• 9N1MM CW operation last month was apparently by K2LE, who worked 20, 40 and 15. He did not have permission to operate on 3.5 or 1.8 MHz, according to DXPress.

• Last week's Trindade operation by PY1DFF and PY1VOY was apparently limited to about 24 hours. They were worked on 160.

• K9RHY has an Andamans QSL from VU2HMD/VU7 (June 7, 1985) but it apparently is not being accepted in Newington. DX News Sheet says it's in contact with VU2RBI, who is working on an Andamans operation similar to the Laccadives operation(s) of two years ago. Incidentally, there appears to be no hope of getting a QSL out of the first Laccadives operation in late December, 1983.

• PA0GMM's African operations back in October, as reported in DXPress, ran into some politics. Guido was not allowed to bring his own equipment onto the Comoros, so he used the rig of D68WB, signed D68DX, and made 800 contacts. He reports conditions as being very poor. On Mayotte, he used the rig of FH8CP but had electricity only three hours in the morning (no propagation) and three hours in the evenings. In three days he made 143 contacts.

• "J52UAG" says to QSL via YU1AHI, according to DX News Sheet. No other information is available. It appears J5WAD has left for the Ukraine.

• A Japanese group will activate the British Virgin Islands Dec 27 to Jan 2; callsigns so far are N2AIR/VP2V and N2DHZ/VP2; other operators are JA1XGQ, JA2IVK, and JA7RHJ. The group will be particularly looking to work home to Japan on the low bands. QSLs to JG1QGT or the JARL.

• As reported in the DX Family Foundation newsletter, NH6J/KH0 by JE1JKL produced 3750 contacts in 189 countries and 112 zones in the CQ CW contest. Especially difficult for Saty was working Europeans, 20 Meters being the only band that produced significant numbers of them.

• DXFF's latest issue also reports that XU1SS is still being worked, on 14.180 and 14.010 at 07-0800Z, mostly weekends. OM Sovann and YL Kimsan are still the two operators.

CONTRIBUTORS

KA1BU, K1KTB, WK6E, K1MEM, KA1XN, K3RR, KD7SO, W8CT, W1CYB, W5KNE, K9RHY, K4UVT.

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COMMENT

WE ARE HOPING that the ad we ran last week produces an old tube-type AM transmitter from someone's basement. One problem we foresee is the increasing scarcity of replacement vacuum tubes. Solid state plug-in replacements have been suggested, but we are not enthusiastic about them.

In "high end" audio equipment vacuum tubes are making a comeback, not only in high power audio amplifiers but even in preamps. The reasons for this switch in audiophile thinking are connected to the fact that most audio fanatics have rejected digital compact discs. CDs simply do not have the presence that vinyl LPs have, at least when the LPs are played on high quality equipment.

Compact discs were intended to be high-volume consumer items, not audiophile software. Thus, the sampling rate used to produce them is not nearly fast enough to rival the audio quality of an LP. This phenomena is, in turn, reminiscent of American television being inferior to European, because the U.S. standard is fewer lines of resulution than the European.

Audiophiles have discovered that solid state equipment, being digital, simply does not have the "fullness" of vacuum tube amplification. Since audio equipment is intended to do one thing, and one thing only, amplify, any advantages which integrated circuits might have outside of pure amplification are of no consequence to the audiophile.

The best SSB audio we ever heard was that of the Hallicrafters HT-37, which used tubes and the phasing method of generating SSB, instead of the filter method. The HT-37's SSB was fuller, rounder, and more pleasant to listen to than the filter rigs which eventually became the norm. Some might contend that the HT-37 audio even had more communications effectiveness than the severely restricted filter rigs' audio.

We admit that AM has no place on most amateur bands these days, from a purely frequency usage point of view, but there is room for it on 75 Meters and certainly on 10 Meters. There is a growing AM population in the Northeast U.S., a surprising number of the operators not being old timers but rather new hams who are buying old rigs at flea markets, cleaning them up, and putting them on AM.

These new hams on AM have at least one thing in common with many of us "old timers": they are able to trouble shoot and work on the older rigs, while they would never think of trying to fix a TS940S. - K1TN.

Five years ago in *The DX Bulletin*

(NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 1980: ZL1AMO/Chatham was on CW; rumors of a Kermadec operation by him or anyone else turned out to be false, as the Australian government had no operating permit requests for Kermadec on file. The YI1BGD station in Baghdad was moving to another, safer location, and the operators were hoping to start a program for training new licensees. Ian, VK4NIC/3X, was the first person active from Guinea in some time. BV2A was bootlegged on 40 Meter CW; at that time, Tim had operating permission only for 20 and 10 Meters. I2YDX had left Somalia (6OODX) but planned to return early in 1981. K5VT reported having made over 4,000 contacts from 9U5AV.

Early in 1980, Ham Radio had stopped publishing Ham Radio Horizons, a magazine aimed at radio newcomers. In December of 1980, they announced that their newsletter, HR Reports, was being changed from a weekly to a bi-weekly publishing schedule. U.S. airmail rates increased from 31 cents to 40 cents a half-ounce. QST was again looking for a writer for its "How's DX?" column. And December CQ magazine had the first DX column by Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD.

A coup in Guinea Bissau in November, 1980 had resulted in the ouster of a progressive government and takeover by the military. The only activity from there since has been by a Russian, UB5WAD (J5WAD). VK9ZG closed out Willis Island operations, but another operator was scheduled to replace him. K6LPL, J28AZ and F6ATQ made over 16,000 Abu Ail contacts as J20AA/A.

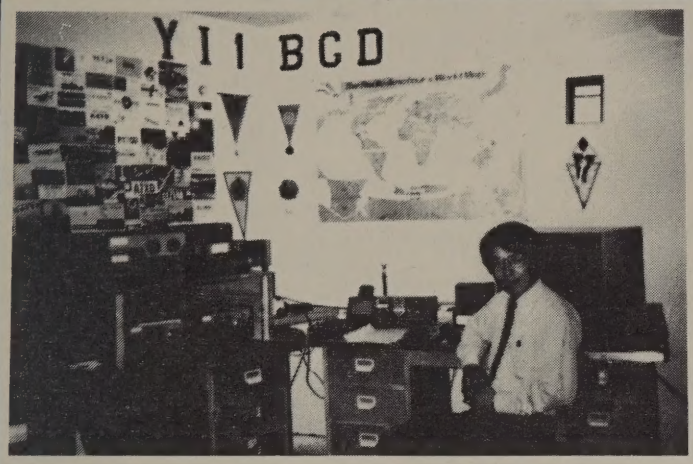
The CQ WW CW Contest at the end of November, 1980, had terrific conditions but not many expeditions were on the air. Your editor worked 10 Meters and in 20 hours made 900 contacts in 81 countries, and 26 zones. A solar disturbance during the contest made the bands not as good as they generally were that season.

The Colvins were in the Middle East, signing W6KG/4X. From there Iris made WAC in three minutes by working 4Z4, EA9, SP, W2, VK and YV on 20 SSB.

Following an earthquake in southern Italy, a special station was set up at the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and the callsign used was 1A0KM. We reported that the operators, including 10MGM, were "investigating the possibility of DXCC country status for SMOM." An application had been sent to Newington. We further noted that Abu Ail, a DXCC country, did not show up in our world atlas, but SMOM did.

N4HX was in Benin, awaiting word on licensing. A6XYL was active from the U.A.E. but with no DXCC accreditation. DF2MG signed VK3DCS/LH from Lord Howe, joining VK2AGT on the island. PA0GMM had just completed a Pacific tour which included FO0GMM, ZK1AXE, ZK2BM, 3D2GM, A35BG, and PA0GMM/KH8. OH2BH and OH2MM put their Sudan 6T1YP and S. Sudan ST2FF/ST0 QSL cards in the mail, and we reproduced them in Issue 68.

N2KK also operated from the Sudan, as N2KK/ST2, and from Djibouti as J20CN. LU3ZY, the last operation from S. Sandwich, had become very scarce in late 1980, his operating times and frequencies favoring Europe and Asia rather than North America. DL1VU was in the Pacific, first on Niue as ZK2VU, then aiming for six other islands, through March 1981. VK9NS continued trying to arrange a Heard Island expedition.



YASU, JR1AIB, a recent visitor in the YI1BGD shack. DXFF reports that the operators prefer to use the Atlas transceiver rather than the "complicated" Drake 4-line. Although the station is equipped for 80-10 Meters and reportedly is used on all 5 bands, we have never seen a report of YI1BGD on either 80 or 40 Meters.

YI1BGD is apparently out of QSL cards, and awaiting government funds for more. JR1AIB found some 2,000 airmail envelopes with QSL requests stored at the station. The DX Family Foundation has printed and sent 3,000 QSLs to Baghdad to help clean up the demand.

160 METERS

4X4NJ 1832 0355 4 MA
GM3WTA 1832 2220 4 MA
HK1AMW 1824 0305 3 MA
HR1/WB5YWU 1842 0215 11 MA
J28EI 1825 0305 3 MA
(QRT 12/18)
J37AE 1822 0015 5 MA
KH6CC 1833 0535 11 MA
KP2J 1825 0018 5 MA
PY0T/PY1VOY 1823 0503 10 MA
RZ3DF 1831 0500 5 MA
UA9CBO 1837 0340 3 MA
UG6GAW 1832 0315 3 MA
UO5GQ 1833 0550 11 MA
ZB2RAF 1837 2145 5 MA
ZF2AD 1832 0430 6 MA

80 METERS

3B8CF 3505 0135 5 MA
9H1ED 3795 2125 4 MA
9M2AX 3506 1540 30 OR
C31OF 3793 0105 9 MA
CU3AA 3796 0117 7 MA
(CT2CQ)
EA8/OZ8EBR 3508 2135 2 MA
HI8LC 3512 0235 10 MA
HL5OC 3503 1515 29 OR
HP1X/N8AQV 3505 0450 3 MA
HR1/WB5YWU 3796 0135 9 MA
HR1/WB5YWU 3797 0145 10 MA
J28E1 3501 0223 10 MA
J28EI 3501 0313 6 MA
J28EI 3506 0100 5 MA
J28E1 3510 0030 3 CA
J28EI 3799 0135 10 MA
J28E1 3800 0130 12 MA
(QRT 12/18)
J28EL 3799 0346 11 MA
JY9MG 3507 2100 5 MA
LU6DFP 3799 0200 2 NH
OA4JR 3506 0530 4 MA
PY0T/PY1VOY 3505 0516 10 MA
PZ1DT 3504 0515 11 MA
SV1NA 3506 0515 3 MA
TF5TP 3799 1120 9 MA
TR8JLD 3800 0147 12 MA
UA0IDL 3507 1358 29 OR
UF6VBD 3799 0245 3 MA
UO5GQ 3507 0500 7 MA
V2ACW 3507 0157 11 MA
V44KAC 3796 0222 10 MA
V44KAC 3796 0202 2 NH
V44KAC 3796 0225 10 MA
VP2MO 3795 0218 8 MA
VP5DG 3795 0050 9 MA
YD1LBY 3503 1240 1 OR

40 METERS

3B8CF 7008 0218 11 MA
3B9CJ 7005 0023 28 PA
4K1F 7006 0544 4 CA
4K1F 7006 0540 4 MA
(S SHETLANDS)
5L2EQ 7001 0030 27 PA
6Y5JH 7010 0030 27 CA
8R1J 7006 0819 28 CA
9V1TL 7004 1550 3 OR
BV2DA 7003 1545 3 OR
BV2DA 7009 1355 29 OR
BV2DA 7009 1410 1 OR
CE8PD 7003 0205 4 MI
CT3/DF8ZH 7003 0800 27 CA
CV0U 7002 0300 7 MI
DV1FZ 7008 1610 3 OR
EA7AZA 7008 2330 1 MI
GW4IUN 7012 2300 25 PA
H44IA 7002 0740 1 CA
HC1ATG 7004 0102 4 MI
HC1BI 7003 1150 1 OR
HC5NAI 7003 1200 29 OR
HC5NAI 7008 1200 1 OR
HI8LC 7008 1200 1 OR
IS0OMH 7003 2347 1 MI
LU9CV 7001 0240 5 MI
LZ1KUF 7005 0100 27 CA
TA1A 7009 2245 25 PA
UA9JEL 7007 0934 26 CA
UA9KAA 7004 1455 26 CA
UI8OAA 7004 1145 25 PA
UL7CAD 7007 1120 2 PA
UW9YV 7007 0215 3 OR
VK9ZB 7177 0914 6 CA
VQ9LD 7005 1320 4 CA
XX9XX 7006 1422 27 CA
XX9XX 7006 1225 29 OR
(CR9 MACAO)
YB4FN 7006 1710 30 OR
YB4FN 7006 1630 3 OR
YB4FN 7007 1651 5 CA
YC2VJ 7008 1600 3 OR
ZD9GJ 7002 0900 26 CA
ZP5XDW 7004 0155 1 OR
ZS4/VE3FVT 7005 0216 9 MA
ZS4/VE3FXT 7004 0253 7 MI

20 METERS

3B8CF 14030 1618 2 CA
5H3BH 14025 1640 30 OR
5N0/JG1FVG 14015 2240 10 MA
5N1/JH4EIY 14029 1850 6 MA
5N4TME 14172 2056 7 MA
5N8ALH 14183 2120 4 PA
5T5LW 14226 2050 4 PA
5T5SL 14027 1715 5 PA
5T5SR 14220 1934 1 NH
5W1DZ 14309 0345 30 OR
5X5GK 14183 1900 29 PA
5Z4DU 14183 1830 1 PA
5Z4DU 14183 1923 1 NH
6W6NJ 14180 2232 7 NH
7P8CI 14183 2045 4 PA
7P8KG 14183 1850 2 OR
7P8KG 14187 1835 6 MA
7X2LS 14226 1730 5 PA
A22DP 14163 1843 8 MA
AP2SQ 14159 1236 7 MA
BV2FA 14226 0026 1 OR
BY1QH 14226 0020 1 OR
C31LBB 14003 1530 28 OR
CE0FFD 14005 2310 1 OR
CE0ZIC 14018 2200 5 MA
CT3/DF4ZL 14026 1545 28 OR
EA8/EA5YU 14012 1720 28 OR
FM5BW 14012 2145 1 OR
FO8FO 14010 1820 1 OR
FR4ZD 14183 1830 25 PA
FT8XB 14183 2050 2 PA
HI0JR 14025 2045 5 MI
HS4AMS 14227 0025 2 OR
J52UAD 14226 0007 8 NH
(YES, J52UAD)
JW5E 14226 1730 5 OR
OD5/EI9FG 14025 1935 6 MA
PJ8DFS 14227 2120 1 OR
RA2CC 14194 0000 2 OR
S22BW 14170 1930 8 MA
S92LB 14183 1830 1 PA
S92LB 14183 2100 2 PA
TJ1CH 14183 2115 4 PA
TZ6FE 14226 2200 2 PA
TZ6FE 14227 2154 1 NH
TZ6FE 14227 2255 2 NH
TZ6FE 14227 2244 7 NH
TZ6LPY 14174 2039 7 MA
VK3MO 14194 2237 7 NH
(LONG PATH)
VK7HA 14021 1715 28 OR
VS6CT 14227 2345 1 OR
XT2BR 14035 1850 6 MA
YN4RC 14026 2335 1 OR
Z21AO 14183 1900 29 PA
ZD7CW 14155 2100 4 PA
ZD7SE 14183 1830 29 PA
ZF2RD 14027 1730 5 PA
ZP5XDW 14025 0435 11 MA
ZS3E 14183 1830 1 PA
ZS6BI 14007 2035 6 MI
ZS6UE 14010 1935 3 MI
ZS6USA 14177 2058 7 MA

15 METERS

3B8CF 21030 1630 6 MA
7P8KG 21022 1645 6 MA
7P8KG 21254 1525 6 MA
7P8OM 21306 1640 4 MA
CU3AA 21026 1650 6 MA
(CT2CQ)
CV0U 21023 1738 8 MI
(FLORES ISLAND)
Z21AO 21335 1730 2 PA
ZD9CI 21335 1700 6 MA

KEY TO BANDPASS:
Callsign;
Frequency;
UTC;
day of month;
state.

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(24 hours).

CALENDAR

ISSUE 315

AFRICA	W6KG/W6QL active now as 7P8KG (Issue 314); then 7Q, 7P, 3D6, S8, ZE, 9J, and CR8 possible through next April; QSL to YASME.
ARUBA-P4	A new DXCC country beginning Jan 1; P4/KQ2M scheduled Jan 13-20
BVI-VP2V	JA group Dec 27-Jan 2; Issue 315
CAMBODIA-XU	XU1SS still reported in Japan; I315
CHINA-BY	BY1QH, BY1SK active 20 SSB
CHRISTMAS-VK9X	VK9XJ try 14.170 at 1200Z
CONGO-TN	TN8EE no reports (12/85)
CYPRUS BASES	ZC4HMS, ZC4ESB active; ZC4MR on with W7PHO, 14.225 at 1600Z ZC4MR says 160 starting soon
E KIRIBATI-T32	T32AB on 20 SSB; K7EHI/T32 too
FALKLANDS -VP8	VP8BGO active
FERN DE NORON.	PY0FG there now, no reports on 80, 160
FIJI-3D2	Reportedly now have 1800-1850 KHz
FR JOSEF LAND	UA1PAP currently most active
GUINEA-BISSAU-J5	J52UAG active; Issue 315
INDIA	Now 160 Meters 1820-1860; Issue 315
KERGUELEN-FT8X	FT8XB, XA very active all bands;
KERMADEC-ZM8	ZM8OY ends Dec 31
KURE-KH7	KH6JEB/KH7 supposedly on again; no reports
LORD HOWE-VK9	VK9NM by DJ5CQ until Feb, 1986 he wants QSLs direct there, to Box 5, L.H. Island 2898, Australia
MALAGASY-5R	5R8AL try 20, 40 Meters SSB try Fri, 21.330, 16-1700Z
MALDIVES-8Q	8Q7CG BY I5JHW Jan 19-Feb 1
PETER I ISLAND	December by JF1IST cancelled; by KD7P possible Jan (I313)
PITCAIRN-VR6	VR6JR still on Dec 3 (12/85)
PORTUGAL	New callsigns in Dec; I310
QATAR-A7	A71AD QSL info Issue 311
SAO TOME-S9	S92LB on 14.183 2030-2330Z4 his QSLs are good for DXCC
SAUDI ARABIA-HZ	HZ1AB QRT; I310
S. SHETLANDS	CE9HOP there, no reports (1285)
SO ORKNEYS	AZ1A on RTTY begins any day; I310
SVAALBARD-JW	JW5VAA, JW5E on now; I310
TAHITI	Rumored by KS7P in January
TOKELAUS-ZK3	ZK3RW by ZL1AMO next March; I314
TONGA-A35	A35TN by VK3DET Nov 25-Jan 3.
TRISTAN-ZD9	ZD9BV no reports for some time (11/85)
TROMELIN	FR7AI rumored there next Feb; I315
VE3FXT	VE3FXT/ZS4 now, then back to Canada
WILLIS-VK9Z	VK9ZB leaves this month
160 METER NET	With 4X4NJ, 1400Z, Saturday, 14.337 Info 1900-2000 KHz, I310

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